



VOL. XXIII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1854.

NO. 1.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man"

COMMENCEMENT OF VOLUME XXIII.

In presenting to our readers the first number of the 23d volume of the Maine Farmer, we beg to assure them that we shall continue to exert what powers we have, to render it as useful in the various departments to which it is devoted, as the means, whether physical or mental, which we can command will allow. In looking back through the series in which we have labored in the cause of agricultural improvement in Maine, and which now number more than the fifth part of a century; we cannot but feel encouraged at the progress made, slow though it has been, and the promise which we see manifested on every hand, that this progress will continue with a pace accelerated in proportion to the accumulation of the experience and strength derived from the past.

It would take more time and space than we can now spare, to enumerate the instances of decided and marked progress in the agricultural and productive arts among us. A few only may be briefly mentioned as we pass. When the Maine Farmer was commenced there was but one incorporated agricultural society in the whole State, (the Kennebec,) and that just beginning its career, having had but one show and fair. Now there are eighteen, all of which or nearly all of which have had spirited shows, at which are exhibited stock and manufactured articles, which would far eclipse those of twenty years since. The great addition of the various breeds of improved stock, such as the Durham, Hereford, Ayrshire, Devon and Jerseys, that can now be found in their purity in different sections of the State, is another instance of progress in the department of stock raising. We believe none of the above cattle as distinctive breeds could be found in Maine twenty years ago, except the Durham, and but very few of them. The great improvements in agricultural implements and machinery, may also be mentioned as another evidence of the progress since the above period. In this department Maine has contributed her share, amounting to as much if not more than any of her sister States. The first successful inventions for threshing and separating grain by portable horse power machinery, were first invented and matured in this State, and may now be found throughout the great grain growing zone, from the St. Lawrence to the Sandwich islands. The names of Samuel Lane and John A. and Hiram A. Pitts, Maine born, and Maine taught boys, will ever be remembered in the grain growing chapters of agricultural history. Their inventions have been to the grain grower, what Whitney's cotton gin has been to the cotton grower, the means of easily and cheaply cleaning and preparing the article ready for the market and the consumer.

The increased desire for study and mental research among farmers, is another striking evidence of progress, and one which, more than anything else, is a guarantee that this process will be permanent.

When the Maine Farmer was commenced, there were only six agricultural papers published in the whole United States. Now, we know not how many, but certainly more than ten times the above number. So prejudiced were farmers against "book farming," that only two hundred individuals in all Maine, could be persuaded to lend their aid in starting the Farmer, and with this feeble band of friends it was ushered before the public, and for years lived a feeble and suffering life. Now it has a circulation of several thousands, and we hope to say tens of thousands, in a few years more.

In looking over the lists of its patrons, we occasionally meet with the names of those who have, from its first number to the present time, taken it, and given it to through all its vicissitudes and changes, through evil and thro' good report, their firm, undeviating, unswerving support. It is not strange that toward them we have a peculiar regard—even as an old soldier respects his brothers in arms, who have won him in years in the same campaigns, and messmates at the same camp for a protracted and eventful warfare. It is by the aid of such, as well as that of thousands more recently enlisted, that we have been sustained, encouraged, and enabled to continue thus far in discharge of the arduous and oftentimes perplexing duties that have devolved upon us in conducting the Farmer to its present date.

If the "Farmer" has been of any benefit to the farmers of Maine, or to the community generally, it is owing to the aid thus given us by tried and faithful friends. We trust that such aid will continue, and not only continue but increase, as years roll on, and the whole agricultural community be united as one in the labor of elevating their calling, and placing themselves, by their intelligence and enterprise, where they by nature belong—at the head of the State and the nation.

CARROTS FOR MILK AND BUTTER. It is only a few years since we had various recommendations for coloring butter to a deep golden yellow, by grinding up and mixing in the pulp of the orange carrot, but the best way that we found for giving the carrot color, was to pare these roots first through the cow. We have, with nothing more than an average decent cow, made seven pounds of butter per week, much resembling the best grass butter, besides using a small portion of the milk daily on the table. This was accomplished by the use of about a peck and a half of the white variety per day. We hope such of our readers as can, will experiment in the use of this root, the present winter and let us know the result. [Albany Cultivator.

For the Maine Farmer.

**CORRECTIONS.**

MR. EDITOR.—In my communication on fruits in the Patent Office Report, (part second,) on Agriculture, for 1853, there are several omissions and typographical errors. The most material ones are on page 257, where the word "ice" is left out in two places, and the word "commonly" is printed instead of *annually*. Therefore, will you and other editors confer a favor on me, by inserting in your paper, the following paragraph, which is a true copy of the communication I sent to the said Patent Office—

"Apples grown in this State, (Maine,) are kept a month longer, than those raised in most of the other sections of the country. I therefore believe that Maine will, at no distant day, become one of the largest exporting fruit States in the Union. Immense quantities of *ice* are annually exported to foreign countries, in ships owned here, which affords us every facility for adding to the cargoes of *ice*, our long-keeping apples. In this respect we have many advantages over our brethren of other States, which have less seacoast, and, with two exceptions, less navigation. Maine is indented along the seacoast with more than three hundred harbors, suitable for ships, steamers and other vessels."

HENRY LITTLE.

Bangor, December, 1854.

For the Maine Farmer.

**SCAB IN SHEEP.**

MR. EDITOR.—In the Farmer of the 7th inst. there is an inquiry in regard to the scab in sheep, by C. R. L., and your note on the same, which induces me to give my experience with the scab. Two years since my own and my neighbors' sheep were infected. I have some now that were among the number that are in as good condition as they can be, that I cured by steeping tobacco and bathing the part infected. By the Editor's note, one might suppose that the sheep must be very thoroughly soaked, but it is not so; a slight bathing any moderate day, with an occasional repetition, until you are satisfied that the disease has yielded. Treated that a pound would cure ten, and perhaps fifteen.

SAMUEL COUSENS.

Portland, Dec. 14th, 1854.

CHANGE OF FOOD.

MR. EDITOR: One great reason why we would urge upon our farming brethren the necessity of cultivating roots as a food for their domestic animals, is the necessity under which the demands and wants of animals place those having the charge of them, of frequently changing their food. In our own species, the existence of this necessity is so clearly obvious that it is recognized by every one, and is made the basis of action in all our sanitary and dietary regulations, whether in a state of disease or health. But in the case of our domestic animals—whose instructive propensities and wants are equally, if not more strong—we are apt to lose sight of it altogether. Our horses and our oxen are ordinarily confined to one kind of food, and that generally of a dry and unseasonable description, from the time they are taken to the barn in the fall, till they leave it in the spring. Physicians and physiologists assure us that when a man is confined for a considerable length of time to one sort of diet—no matter how nutritive and invigorating may be its character—he is much more liable to disease, than when his regimen is varied. This, indeed, is fully demonstrated by the extreme prevalence of those fatal maladies ordinarily attending long voyages, and where the same are necessarily restricted for many months to the same rations. Dogs and cats, and other domestic animals, confined for an undue period of time to one sort of food, though it may be of a character naturally adapted to their nature and their wants, have often been known to lose their vitality, sicken and die. The only exception to this rule, perhaps, is found in those anomalous cases where the food is of the simplest kind,—as for instance, the potatos of the Irish, the brose of the Scotch, and the rice of the Chinese, and the no less simple aliment of the people of the tropics. A due consideration of this fact is, according to our apprehension, of the greatest practical importance to the farmers, who, though often motived in the treatment of their domestic animals, and mute domestics, by the most benevolent impulses, are yet liable to error from ignorance, and lay the foundation of diseases which they endeavor so sedulously to avoid.

Throughout a very large portion of the cattle growing region of our country, hay is almost exclusively the article of winter feed. Very few roots for their stock, and fewer still can afford to feed out grain. The consequence is that almost all our animals are confined to hay as the common diet, and if any variation is known, it is only of the simplest description, and generally from bad to worse. What the silent effects of such a system may be, it is perhaps difficult to decide; but that it has a debilitating and stupefying influence, which develops in some way detrimental to the farmer's interests who practices it, and to the misery of the animals who are its victims, is more than a mere truism. "A merciful man is merciful to his beast," and to err thus, through ignorance in such matters, is no less sinful, at this day, than to err intentionally.

[Germantown Telegraph.

JAPANESE GARDENS. The gardeners of Japan display the most astonishing art. The plum tree, which is a great favorite, is so trained and cultivated that the blossoms are as big as those of dahlias. Their great triumph, however, is to bring both plants and trees into the compass of the little garden attached to the houses in the cities. With this view, they have gradually succeeded in dwarfing the fig, plum and cherry trees, and the vine, to a stature so diminutive as scarcely to be credited by an European; and yet these dwarf trees are covered with blossoms and leaves. Some of the gardens resemble pictures in which nature is skilfully modelled in miniature—but it is living nature! Meylon, whose work Japan was published at Amsterdam, in 1830, states that in 1828, the Dutch agent of commerce at Nagasaki, was offered a snuff-box, one inch in thickness, and three inches high, in which grew a fig tree, a bamboo, and a plum tree in bloom.

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be wanted for chewing the end, and a large portion will go to the production of milk, though this will be thinner, and not so rich in cream as the milk produced from dried food. It is questionable whether cows fed wholly on distilled wash would ruminate at all any more than calves, which, so long as they suck, never ruminate.

Another important practical lesson is reference to the giving of medicine, and is stated as follows by C. R. L.: "We may, to a great extent, send medicine into what stomach we please. We may give it in a ball, and it will fall into the paunch, and thence go the round of all the stomachs; or it may be exhibited in a fluid form, and gently poured down, and the greater part of it passed at once into the third and fourth stomachs. That which is meant to have a speedy action on the constitution or the�� should be given in a fluid form. That also which is particularly disagreeable should be thus given, otherwise it will enter the paunch and be digested by the animal, and perhaps cause rumination to cease at once. This would always be a dangerous thing, for the food retained in the paunch would soon begin to ferment, and become a new source of irritation and disease."

A third important practical lesson has reference to the sweating of the domestic ruminants, particularly sheep. Sweating is the production of the fluid portion of the blood, or arises from the same source as the salivary secretion employed in rumination; and hence the flow of it is more to be dreaded in ruminating animals than in others, insomuch as it greatly diminishes the supply of fluid which ought to be employed in rumination. If sheep are sweating while they ruminate, there will be two evacuations of fluid at the same time, the body will be dried, and the blood exhausted and heated by the loss, while thirst will supervene, so as to make them drink till they are unaccustomed and their temperament altered. Sweating is also hurtful to sheep in other respects, for the fibres of their wool are thereby deprived of a part of their nourishment, which the sweat carries out of their body, while the heat which occasions the sweat causes the wool to grow too rapidly to acquire sufficient consistence."

**DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.**

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

POT-AX-FE. This is by far the most wholesome of all soups. Take three pounds of good rump of beef, or any part free from bone and not too fat; put it in an earthen fire-proof pot, with three quarts of water, one large carrot, two turnips, two leeks, a head of celery, and one bunch of onions; season, and let the soup boil slowly, skimming it from time to time, for at least five hours; then strain it through a fine sieve, and pour it over slices of bread to serve. The meat and vegetables make a dish which is afterwards served. Thus cooked, the beef becomes tender and juicy, and is excellent cold.

CABBAGES. There are more ways to cook a fine cabbage than to boil it with a bacon side, and yet few seem to comprehend that there can be any loss in cooking it, even in this simple way. Two-thirds of the cabbages place cabbage in cold water and start it to boiling; this extracts all the best juices, and makes the pot liquor a soup. The cabbage head, after having been washed and quartered should be dropped into boiling water, with no more heat than will just season it. Cabbage may be cooked to equal broccoli or cauliflower. Take a firm, sweet head, cut it into shreds, lay it in salt and water for six hours. Now place it in boiling water until it becomes tender—turn the water off, and add sweet milk when thoroughly done; take it up in a colander and drain. Now season with butter and pepper, with a little nutmeg grated over, and you will have a dish little resembling what is generally called green.

[Soil of the South.

TO IMPROVE TEA. Mr. Soyer recommends housekeepers to place the tea-pot upon the hob for a little while before making. This plan certainly improves both strength and flavor.

Rainwater, when pure, is the best for making all infusions, including tea, of course; since the solvent powers of water are great in proportion to its freedom from earthly salts.

SIR A. COOPER'S CHILBLAIN LINIMENT. One ounce of camphorated spirit of wine, half an ounce of liquid subacetate of lead; mix, and apply in the usual way three or four times a day. Some persons use vinegar as a preventive; this is so narrowed as almost to close by its own contraction; and, fourthly, that when the first two stomachs, compressed by abdominal muscles and the midriff, contract, they push in consequence the materials which they contain both against the two apertures opposite to each other, and against the midriff opposite the two stomachs. The two stomachs, in this manner, in proportion as they contract, push the materials contained in them between the margins of the midriff, and the end of the gutlet extends from the termination of the gutlet to the inlet of the manyplices; secondly, that when it contracts, it approaches one or the other of these apertures; thirdly, that of these two apertures, the termination of the gutlet is habitually shut, and the inlet of the manyplices, naturally straight, so as to be narrowed as almost to close by its own contraction; and, fourthly, that when the first two stomachs, compressed by abdominal muscles and the midriff, contract, they push in consequence the materials which they contain both against the two apertures opposite to each other, and against the midriff opposite the two stomachs.

The two stomachs, in this manner, in proportion as they contract, push the materials contained in them between the margins of the midriff, and the end of the gutlet extends from the termination of the gutlet to the inlet of the manyplices; secondly, that when it contracts, it approaches one or the other of these apertures; thirdly, that of these two apertures, the termination of the gutlet is habitually shut, and the inlet of the manyplices, naturally straight, so as to be narrowed as almost to close by its own contraction; and, fourthly, that when the first two stomachs, compressed by abdominal muscles and the midriff, contract, they push in consequence the materials which they contain both against the two apertures opposite to each other, and against the midriff opposite the two stomachs.

TO RENDER LEATHER IMPERVIOUS TO WATER. Lay it over with a mixture composed of half a pound of bees-wax, and one fourth of a pound of common resin. The mixture should be applied warm, and the surface be previously well cleaned. Farmers and others who are necessarily much exposed, would do well to provide themselves with this valuable article. We have tried it with success.

[Germantown Telegraph.

TO CLEAN CANDLESTICKS, SNUFFERS, &c. Silver, platin, and japanned candlesticks, snuffers, and snuffers—should be cleaned by fire, removing the drops of wax or tallow that have fallen on them, by washing in boiling water, afterwards wiping them quite dry and clean with a piece of soft wash-leather. If made of silver, copper plated, they may be finished off with a little plate powder. On no account place them before the fire to melt the grease off, as much heat will melt off the solder or Japan, or injure the face of the plate. In placing the candles in the sockets, fit them in tightly, either by means of a strip of paper wound round them, or by the ordinary candle-springs; they will thus be prevented from falling apart and smoldering.

Turnips, when hung up and smoked with green hickory wood. Middlings, shoulders and ham all cured by the same receipt.

ANT-SALT MOVEMENT.

ANT-SALT OF SALT FOR CATTLE. Dr. Joel Shaw publishes in the illustrated Hydropathic Review, a lecture devoted to the discussion of the following strange propositions:

"Salt, or the chlorid of sodium, is a mineral poison, and in all works of any note the subjects of poison is treated of as such. It is in no form of nature; is an indigestible article; never goes to mineral any part or portion of the living body, as we have every reason to believe, but always leaves the system as it enters it, a mineral, indigestible poison."

And then the girls, O dear me! I think they can't be beat,

I'd rather have a smoke from one than eat the finest wheat;

They very early learn to spin, and bake and brew and sew,

And make the very best of wives, (there's one that does, I know.)

And there is Plymouth Rock, you know, the schoolhouse and the mill,

And there you'll find the meetin' house, and there is Bunker Hill;

And there the men in olden time determined to be free,

For that was what they fought about, and not the pound of tea.

The cattle browse upon the hills, and find good pickin' too,

For labor's sturdy arm is there, and that will put it through;

There the corn and pumpkins grow, and there they raise the beans,

And all the folks that love to work can live like kings and queens,

The men both hold and drive the plow, so by the plow they thrive,

They want no sluggards in the field, no drones within the hive;

Who will not toil must never eat, each son and daughter feels,

The very streams are made to work and turn the factory wheels.

The cultivation of the soil the farmer's not confined,

He takes the weekly newspaper and cultivates the mind;

The boys and girls, so rosy-cheeked, are bright as well as merry,

They study Webster's Spelling Book, and buy the Dictionary.

Or that's the land of singing-schools, of apple-bees and such,

And there when boys get off the track, their fathers use the switch;

The hoary head is honored there—youth will not despise,

For there (was so when I was young) they learn the catechism.

These Western folks may talk about their mighty streams and prairies,

But for the butter to their bread they need New England dairies;

Or of cattle on a thousand hills? they ne'er can be possessed,

For a mile or two, back to the east,

Her pork if linked in sausages and made into a chain, Would reach, like Puck's, around the globe and half-way back again;

For hundred acre fields of wheat, and corn so monstrous tall,

By these the nations might be fed, but then that is not all—

When in the pleasant Sabbath morn the waving harvest swells,

The emigrant would like to hear New England's Sunday bells;

# THE MAINE FARMER: AN



AUGUSTA: THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1854.

## SHIPBUILDERS' BANK.

Our readers will remember an article in our columns, a few weeks since, in which we stated the fact of our being sued for a libel against the above institution, and also made some extracts from the Rockland papers, touching the standing of that and the other banks of that city. We afterwards also copied a statement from the Rockland Gazette, to the effect that the Shipbuilders' Bank was good, and that bill-holders would lose nothing by it.

In the last issue of the Gazette, however, we find an article which is of a very different character from the above. The Gazette opens the article by saying that they have been repeatedly asked of late why they did not say something about the affairs of the Shipbuilders' Bank, and let their readers know the real state of the case. The editor goes on to say that,

"In the event of such difficulties as have occurred in the Bank, a public trial is planned in which the Bank is to be tried, and on the other, to the subject of the difficulty—as to the Bank, and its officers and stockholders in this case. We have aimed to do justly in this affair. Such was our purpose in publishing the same, as we did a few weeks ago. We will add that those articles were dictated and partly written by some of the officers of the Bank, whose connection with us seemed to warrant that we knew the opinions given to be well founded, and whom we still believe to have acted honestly and in good faith, in suggesting what they did for us to say to the public. We are now satisfied that they and other officers of the Bank have seen developments of its affairs very different from what they then expected."

We might before this have given our readers some information about the Bank, had we been in possession of anything reliable. But this we had not, nor are we yet able to assert more in relation to the state of the Bank's affairs than what comes from the report, and from those who profess to know something about the affairs of the Bank.

We are glad to note the increasing favor with which this magazine is received. It is an honor to American literature—may its shadow never

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

**NEW JUVENILES.** Although a little late for Christmas, we would recommend our readers who are in want of a present for the little ones, to look at some beautiful little works published by Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston, two of which, "The Charm," and "The cheerful Heart," we have received from the boys and girls. These two are just the thing for the boys and girls, and would make a most acceptable New Year's gift. For sale in this city by Stanwood & Sturgis.

**BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.** The reprint of the November number of this work is at hand. The principal articles are "Turkey and its Population"; "The Secret Agent"; "Color in Nature and Art"; "The Influence of Gold upon the Commercial and Social Condition of the World"; "Peace and War"; and "The War and the Ministry." The Philadelphia Banner, in a recent notice of this work says, "In classic literature, history, travels, antiquities, biography, poetry, criticism, fiction, philosophy, reviews, &c., it stands, and ever has stood, without a parallel." The publishers have made arrangements by which they are enabled to place this work in the hands of subscribers almost as soon as they could be furnished with the foreign copy. Terms \$3 per annum. L. Scott & Co., 54 Broad St., N. Y., publishers.

**HOUSEHOLD WORDS.** The January number of this work is at hand. The interesting tale of "North and South" is brought down to the twenty-first chapter. Other stories, and papers of a highly instructive and interesting character, fill out the pages of this number. Published by J. A. Dix, 10 Park Place, N. Y.

**PETRUS MONTHLY.** The opening number of the fifth volume contains a portrait of the author of "The Conqueror's Grave," a fine steel engraving. Among the chief articles are "The Ocean and its life"; "Was Napoleon a Dictator?" "Prof. Phantlone; a Name"; "Israel Potter"; "Negro Minstrelsy, Ancient and Modern"; "Are all men descended from Adam?" and "Secret Societies—the Know Nothings." We are glad to note the increasing favor with which this magazine is received. It is an honor to American literature—may its shadow never

be less than that of the little books here that the Bank will ever again assume its operations. We presume no officer of the Bank hopes for any such thing. This is true, too, that the bills on this Bank only pass at a large discount, though at no fixed per cent. They have been bought and sold at almost all prices, down as low, we believe in some instances, as twenty-five cents on the dollar. Large amounts of the bills have been presented of late at the counter of the Bank for payment, which has been refused in every case.

We understand that several suits have been brought, or are about to be brought on such unpaid demands, and the property of stockholders attached.

We have heard (and there is but little doubt that such is the case,) that there has been an over-issue of the bills to an unknown amount, which of course cannot be ascertained at present. The state of affairs already shows great blame somewhere—where, we don't pretend to say. To many among us there is evidence of actual and intended fraud. To all at least where this does not appear, there is evidence of neglect or carelessness, justly reprehensible. Whatever the cause of the difficulties may have been, it is strange that so serious a state of the Bank's affairs should have existed without an earlier discovery.

The sufferers from this difficulty are many. The bills were much in circulation in this vicinity, as also in some places remote. The stockholders also, will probably lose more than the amount actually vested in the stock. It has affected the value of the stock, and its effects may be far from being over.

The reputation of our city must bear a share of the effects which an event always imposes upon its name and credit abroad. But we have heard best, and that another disaster of the kind will never occur among us."

A notice is published in the Rockland papers calling a meeting of the stockholders to hear a report of the Directors touching the present condition of the Bank, and to adopt such measures as shall be deemed expedient.

The Portland Advertiser learns that the Bank Commissioners have been ordered by the Governor to examine into the affairs of this Bank, and that we shall doubtless have a true statement of its affairs in a few days. This statement we shall endeavor to lay before our readers. If the Bank is found to blame in this affair, and not in a condition to carry on business, the public should certainly know it, and the Bank should be wound up. If, on the contrary, it be found only temporary embarrassment, arising from circumstances beyond their control, the Bank should be allowed time to recover its standing; and no one would be better pleased to stand its restoration to a par standing in the money market than ourselves.

Of the libel suit we have heard nothing since the notification. If it go any further, of course our readers will be informed of its progress.

**A NEW SCHEME.** We find the following in the columns of the Lewiston Falls Journal. The magnitude of the undertaking will be readily perceived, and its importance to our State is of the highest character. Of course we can do no less than to hope the project may be successfully carried out, though of this consummation we are by no means certain. The British government, for the present, at least, will have no spare capital to apply to railroad purposes. But here is the Journal's article:—

**NOT RAILS ENOUGH.** Our friend A. Haynes, 2d, of Passadumkeag, whose recommendation of wire fence to prevent snow drifts, we published a short time ago, informs us that we didn't put in rails enough. He recommends two boards at the bottom, then two or three wires above them, and then a rail at the top. This will make a good fence to keep both cattle and snow well regulated during the year.

**CONCERT.** All lovers of harmony and sweet sounds will repair to Winthrop Hall to-night, (Tuesday,) and listen to Whitehouse's "New England Band," who have received the most complimentary notices from the press wherever they have sung. Mr. Whitehouse is especially spoken of as a singer of unusual merit.

**NOT SO HIGH.** Our "Dibble" made the price current of flour last week to be \$20 per bbl. This is a little higher than the speculators have set it up to as yet. We suppose he set ambitions to get ahead of the times, and so advised on flour to start with. At present you can get pretty poor flour for \$10.

**NEW YORK POLICE IN TROUBLE.** On Friday last, as we learn by a telegraphic despatch, the Grand Jury of New York County made a presentment reflecting with great severity on the police officers and criminal magistrates of New York City, for the slack and reckless manner in which they transact their duties, and bearing heavily on them for discharging known offenders against the laws.

**RAILROAD SPOTS.** We see a little paragraph going the rounds, stating that a gentleman out West recently skated the distance of a mile in one minute and fifty seconds, or at the rate of nearly 33 miles per hour. Are there not some of our Down East states that can come up to that, or even go a little beyond it? The attendance, we regret to say, was large.

**MONTGOMERY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.** At the annual meeting of this Company held on the 29th inst., Joel Small, Isaac N. Prescott, John Neal, John B. Fogg, Leonard Mower, Walter Foss and David Thurston were chosen Directors.

Joel Small, Esq., was elected President; Washington Wilcox, Secretary, and Charles T. Fox, Treasurer.

**THE PINE TREE STATE INSURANCE COMPANY.** At the annual meeting of this Company held on the 29th inst., Joel Small, Isaac N.

# AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

**A TRAIL OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW.** A relic of this lost steam packet has been picked up on the coast of Ireland. A correspondent of the Mail, at Campbellton, states that while a herd-boy was walking along the shore at Ballochmyle, he picked up a portion of the bow of a vessel, which had on it, in large gilded characters, not much defaced, "City of Glasgow," and in the corner, "Let Glasgow flourish." This memento is probably all that will be seen of the noble vessel.

**LOSS OF THE WILLIAM PENN.** Intelligence has been received of the stranding of the Dardanelles of the American three-masted propeller, William Penn. She had been chartered by the French Government to convey 400 French troops and some stores to the Crimea. The extent of the disaster is yet unknown. She was valued at \$37,500, and is fully insured. The Jens, French line-of-battle ship, was also ashore off the castle of Asia, in the Dardanelles.

**RELIEF OF DR. KANE.** The Journal of Commerce has a letter from Washington, which says that there is every prospect of a resolution being adopted by Congress to send a vessel to Smith Sound, in the spring, in search of Dr. Kane.

**FIRES AT ROCKLAND.** On the morning of the 18th inst. a small frame store at Rockland, occupied by Andrews & Davis as a grocery, was damaged by some extent by fire. The goods were insured at the Western Mass. Insurance Company.

**THE FORLORN HOPE.** The editor of the Courier & Enquirer, who has recently returned from Europe, says that the 3d Highlanders, the regiment which received and repulsed the charge of Russian cavalry with such coolness on the 25th of October, has volunteered to lead the storming party when the breaches are opened at Sebastopol. Probably not one of the gallant fellows will live to know whether the attack is successful or not.

**EMBARKATION OF MISSIONARIES.** Rev. J. L. Lyons of Montrose, (Pa.) and Mrs. C. N. Lyons, of South Berwick, Maine, Rev. A. J. Plummer, also of South Berwick, and Mrs. E. B. Plummer, of Bloomfield, N. J., embarked this morning, says the Boston Traveller of Wednesday last, in the Sultan, Capt. Watson, for Smyrna. The usual embarkation services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Clark, of East Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons are expecting to join the Syria mission. Mr. and Mrs. Plummer are appointed to labor among the Armenians.

**THE WRECK OF THE JOSEPH WALKER.** Captain Edwards, the venerable wreck master who has been endeavoring to raise the hull of the ship Joseph Walker, which lies at the bottom of the East river, in New York, seems to be getting his hands full of business. On Monday a large brig which had been floated over the stern of the wreck for the purpose of lifting her from the mud, sprung a leak, filled with water, and sunk directly into it. The accident will probably cause considerable further delay.

**ACACIA JAIL.** It has just come to our knowledge what a Thanksgiving the inmates of our jail had. There were then twenty-eight in confinement, and as they were unfortunately shut out from all the ordinary pleasures of that day, Mrs. Daniel Williams, in accordance with her custom, generously sent them about thirty pies, more than one each, and Col. Pettigill, the Sheriff, added the turkeys and all other needful articles to make as good a dinner as was had in any private family. This was very kind and considerate in both of these individuals, and no doubt they are right in giving up the use of these cells. We are all too apt to forget these little acts of sympathy with the unfortunate criminal. We have enough of harsh condemnation for them; we are too ready to give them a push as they slide down into the abyss of crime and misery, but are altogether too sparing of those deeds of charity and regard which recognize them as still belonging to Humanity, and will do more towards reforming them than all the iron screws of the law, turned by giant hands. Law is necessary and should be faithfully, certainly and judiciously administered. It is then the restraining power, but kind is the reforming power of society. If the latter were more frequently used, the former would be less frequently needed. [Kennebunk Journal.]

**PRINT WORKS BURNED.** Providence, Dec. 22. The printing establishment known as the Manchester Print Works, situated in Smithfield, and principally by order of the entire control of Theodore Schrader, was entirely consumed on the evening of the 21st.

The fire broke out about 7 o'clock, while the works were lighted up and in running order, and although the fire pumps were in excellent condition and immediately brought into requisition, such was the intensity of the cold and the combustible nature of the materials in the process of printing, that all efforts to subdue the flames were fruitless. The main building containing the machinery, the engine house, the boiler house, and the rest of the building in a similar establishment in the country, the kier house, the raising room, two dry sheds and the office or counting room, were entirely consumed. The books and papers were all saved, but in a damaged condition. Some thirty thousand pieces of goods in the various stages of finishing, in value over fifty thousand dollars were either totally destroyed or materially damaged. A large amount of drugs were consumed.

The total loss is about one hundred thousand dollars. The building is of the brick, machinery, copper boilers, drugs and packages is thirty-five thousand dollars. There was insurance on the goods for forty-seven thousand; four hundred dollars in this city, and twenty-one thousand nine hundred and fifty in the Springfield and Hartford Insurance Companies.

**QUEEN'S ARMS & MINIATURES.** A man named Peter Rose, hung himself yesterday morning, on board the brig Allston, of Bangor, Capt. Albert B. Wyman, master. The deceased was steward of the brig. He was called up about 5 o'clock, made a fire in the cabin stove, and went on deck. The mate went on deck at about 6, and saw deceased standing on the deck-load, near the fore shrouds. Spoke to him, and asked him what he was doing. He said he was hung by the neck, with a piece of rope, to the shrouds. His feet touched the deck. He was dead. Capt. Wyman immediately informed Coroner S. O. Danielson, who caused an inquest to be held. The verdict of the jury, from the evidence adduced, was that he hung himself while partially deranged. The deceased was 51 years of age, and has left a wife and three children in Bangor. The chest and effects of the deceased are in the hands of the Coroner, who caused the body to be decently interred in the City Tomb. [Portland Argus, 22d.]

**THE PURCHASE OF THE COLLINS STEAMERS.** It now appears that it was the French government that proposed to buy the Collins boats. The price offered is stated, on pretty good authority, at \$75,000 for either one, or \$250,000 for the three. Reports are, that should Congress reduce the present compensation—as recommended by the Postmaster General—then the company will accede to this offer, rather than run the vessels out of date.

**INCREASE OF THE NAVY.** The New York Evening Post is arguing strenuously against the increase of the U. S. Navy. It thinks that there is no call for this increase; and least of all, at the present time, when the great maritime nations of the world are dashing themselves to pieces against each other. The proposed increase of the Navy, it says, will be no essential addition to our means of defence, while it will be some addition to our means of aggression, and an additional temptation to get into collision with some of our sister nations.

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**THE PURCHASE OF THE COLLINS STEAMERS.** The ship Stephen Baldwin, recently arrived from Hong Kong, discharged one hundred and seventy-seven cases of silk goods, a number of which, being sent to the Appraiser's store for examination, were found to contain old scraps of canvas, shavings and other rubbish.

**A CHINESE COMMERCIAL SCANDAL.** The ship Cyane is narrated and indirectly approved.—Commodore Perry is highly complimented for his success in Japan. The Secretary does not propose to increase the number of officers, and thereby increase the cost of the navy, but to increase the number of men, and to increase the number of ships of the navy of European powers, but to increase the material of our navy, so as at least to approximate to a state of readiness for emergencies, which wise statesmen strive to avoid, but wiser statesmen prepare to meet.

**THE PURCHASE OF THE COLLINS STEAMERS.** The Secretary recommends the reorganization of the various squadrons are reported in detail. The sloop-of-war Albany was last heard from at Aspinwall on the 28th of September, when she left for New York. Painful anxiety was felt touching her. The steamer Princeton was sent in search of her several days since, and on Saturday morning, the 2d, was in sight of the entrance to the harbor for enterprises and exhibition of powers of endurance and generous devotion to duty in the exploration of the Darien ship canal route.

**THE PURCHASE OF THE COLLINS STEAMERS.** The result arrived at is that the proposed canal is totally impracticable; and this, the secretary apprehends, settles the question forever. The bombardment of Greytown by the sloop-of-war Cyane is narrated and indirectly approved.—Commodore Perry is highly complimented for his success in Japan. The Secretary does not propose to increase the number of officers, and thereby increase the cost of the navy, but to increase the number of men, and to increase the number of ships of the navy of European powers, but to increase the material of our navy, so as at least to approximate to a state of readiness for emergencies, which wise statesmen strive to avoid, but wiser statesmen prepare to meet.

**THE PURCHASE OF THE COLLINS STEAMERS.** The quantity of mackerel taken will probably be about the same as last year, but the quality is far inferior. In previous years, the quality of the mackerel taken at the Bay of St. Lawrence has been mostly large and fat; but this year it has been different. In 1853, Gloucester returned over 20,000 barrels of No. 1; this year there will be returned scarcely 5000 barrels of that number. During the first part of the season the mackerel were so small that they were thought to be hardly worth catching, but as the season advanced, the fish were so fat that they were thought to be good. The quantity of mackerel taken will probably be about the same as last year, but the quality is far inferior. In previous years, the quality of the mackerel taken at the Bay of St. Lawrence has been mostly large and fat; but this year it has been different. 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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.



### ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

The steamship America arrived at Halifax on Saturday last, bringing nine days later news from Europe. Her news is important in many respects, although there is little of interest from the seat of war. We make the following synopsis:—

**GREAT BRITAIN.** The augmentation of the army to be submitted to the parliament, is forty-three battalions of the line, one artillery and rifle, and thirty-six thousand men.

The second of the three forces collecting on the Russian frontier, had the effect of depressing the English frontier. It being considered indicative that the Czar will not succumb, except on terms, which, if granted, would cause the resumption of the ministry.

The ship Ariel, under Danish colors, from Marimichi with deals, is seized at Belfast, as Russian.

**FRANCE.** M. Troplong is appointed President of the Senate, and M. Musnard, Drouyn de l'Huys, Marshal D. Hilliers, and Gen. de Vengle, Vice Presidents. Numerous other Senatorial and legislative appointments.

Santa Anna has shown his esteem for the Emperor Napoleon, has unseated the Frenchman engaged in the recent insurrection at Guaymas, in Mexico, and will hand them over to the French charge d'affaires.

**AUSTRIA.** The commercial letters say that Austria has entered into the treaty with the Western Powers, unwillingly, but preferred it to breaking entirely with them. It is denied that the treaty contains any secret provision.

**DENMARK.** The Danish ministry has resigned, and a new Cabinet has not yet been formed.

**ITALY.** An important conversation occurred in the Sardinian Chamber of Deputies. The Minister of foreign affairs stated that the regiment of French cavalry will pass through Piedmont, and that the sympathies of Sardinia, in Mexico, and will hand them over to the French charge d'affaires.

The Chambers met on the 10th December.

**THEATRE OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN AUSTRIA, FRANCE AND ENGLAND.** On December 21, a treaty of alliance was signed at Vienna between Austria, France and England. The exact terms are not known, but they are supposed to be as follows:—

1. That Austria regards the violation of Turkey's territory as against herself.

2. That Austria will augment her force in the principalities, to enable the Turks to resume offensive operations.

3. That, on demand of France and England, 20,000 men shall be sent to the Crimea.

4. France and England guarantee that the territorial possessions of Austria shall under all circumstances remain undiminished.

5. Secret.

6. That Prussia shall be invited to join the alliance.

7. The treaty to come into operation on the part of Austria, if Russia does not come to terms before January 2d.

**TERMS ON WHICH RUSSIA WILL TREAT.** There is also published a letter from Count Nesselrode, setting forth the terms on which the Czar will agree to a peace.

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3. Revision of the treaty of 1851, to which Russia will assent if the Sultan will.

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Meantime, the Berlin papers publish a despatch from Manteuffel dated Nov. 15, to the Prussian Ambassador at Vienna, expressing the desire of the Prussian government not to demand from Russia any concessions beyond the four points.

It is indeed stated, but must be received with caution, that at the council held on the 6th, the King of Prussia determined to unite with the treaty with Austria, France and England, to bring the war to a close.

**THE LESSER GERMAN POWERS.** The deliberations of the Germanic Diet's committee are most important.

The actual position of affairs seems to be, that Russia has a decided advantage in favor of Prussian policy, or at least of neutrality; while, on the contrary, Austria insists that the following point shall be decided, viz.: whether the northern frontiers of Austria are not sufficiently threatened to warrant an immediate support from the Federal troops.

Most of the Germanic States are hastily putting their armies on a war footing.

The present opportunity of peace is probably the last. We may expect to see, next spring, military operations on a large scale, as during the wars of the French Empire.

**THE WAR.** Before Sebastopol affairs are unchanged. There has been some fighting, although not important.

The garrison continues to make sorties.

During the night of the 14th, in a hurricane of wind and rain, the Russians from the city attacked the French camp, but were repulsed.

On the 20th, a British regiment, drawn from steamer Orinoco, steamed Queen of the South arrived with various detachments of English and French. Landed considerable reinforcements at Kamtschatka Bay. Firing very brisk from the town, and warmly repulsed to the French and British lines.

From the 21st to the 24th, the bombardment continued—weak on the part of the allies. Their fire did little damage, and that little was constantly repaired. The allies were mainly occupied in strengthening their position against attack, and in erecting new batteries, the fire of which has not yet been opened.

Menschikoff reports that the English had attempted to make themselves near the head of the dockyard, but were repulsed.

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On the 26th, part of the garrison attacked the French lines, but retired with a loss of 230. The French lost 75. The defensive works of the English and French, and the right of their line of attack and Balaklava, were fully completed.

Until date of 28th appears the following despatch from Gen. Canaris.

The rain has ceased, and the weather is improving. Our works will now exhibit fresh activity. Our reinforcements continue to arrive. The enemy still shows no signs of activity, but continues to protect the town by repeated entrenchments.

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The state of siege at St. Petersburg is suspended.

A Greek conspiracy has been discovered in Bulgaria and Roumania.

## BOSTON JOURNAL.

**FROM CUBA.** Gen. Concha, the new Captain General, has made a new regulation in regard to the landing of troops. Instead of obliging them to wait on board, the steamer until the arrival of the *boletas de desembarco* or landing permits, which was a work of considerable time, especially as Spanish officers do everything in Spanish fashion, *poco a poco*, hereafter as soon as a steamer arrives, she will be boarded by the health officers, the passports of the passengers on board are taken by the police officers, and if the vessel has a clean bill of health, the passengers are allowed to take their baggage immediately. There are no longer any in wait to examine and pass the baggage at once, and in a little office near by is the police officer with the passport, waiting to give out the *boletas de desembarco* to each passenger as he presents himself. It is said, though with what truth we cannot affirm, that General Concha will soon abolish the whole system of passports, notices of change of residence, permits to go into the country, &c., and all persons will be free to come and go whenever they please, and remain so long as they obey the laws of the country. [N. Y. Picayune.]

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## CONGRESSIONAL COMPEND.

TUESDAY, Dec. 19.

**SENATE.** A message was received from the President, transmitting the correspondence with our minister at Constantinople.

**SENATE.** Mr. Abbott, of Massachusetts, presented a petition from Dr. David Sears, Abbott Lawrence, and others, asking an appropriation for the Massachusetts Historical Society, on behalf of shipwrecked mariners on the eastern coast.

**SENATE.** Mr. B. F. D. Applegate, of Pennsylvania, moved an eloquent speech in favor of sending a steamer to the Arctic Seas, in search of Dr. Kane and his party, and it was passed.

**SENATE.** Mr. W. H. Seward, of Missouri, from the Committee on War and Navy, reported a bill making appropriation for the Naval service for the year ending June 30, 1856.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

The Bluse.

For the Maine Farmer.

A SONNET.

BY GEO. W. BLAKE.

This night; and in my care-worn, troubled soul,  
Wild thoughts their vigils keep; like angry waves  
They rise in fearful surges, at the wind's control,  
Then slowly sink to depths of woe.  
And like the sea has been my weary life,  
To-day calm as an infant's slumber, free  
From the tempest storm with dangers rife;  
But when the morrow's sun shineth o'er the sea,  
Behold the sequel of the past night's strife!  
And on this lovely eve I sleep well,  
As you pale moon throw down her silvery rays,  
A semblance of those days how bright enrolled  
Within the arches of my childhood's days—  
A gem from the Pa's old, clouded pane.  
Franklin, Mass., Dec. 12, 1854.

From the Illustrated London News.

BY THE ALMA RIVER.

Willie, fold your little hands;  
Let it drop, that's mother's toy;  
Look where father's little hands,  
Father who has bled his boy  
Not a man since father kind,  
Who the night might—(never mind  
Mother's sob, my Willie dear)—  
Cry out loud that he may hear  
Who is God of battles—say  
"God keep our father safe this day  
By the Alma river!"

Ask no more, child. Never heed  
Either Rusa, or Frank, or Turk—  
Eight of nations—tramped creased—  
Chancier-potter's story's body work:  
Any lag, any wind, any roll,  
On the heights, Sebastianopoli;  
Willie, all to you or me  
Is that spot, where it be.  
Where he stands—no other word—  
Stands—God sure the child's prayer heard!

Now the Alma river.

Willie, listen to the bells,  
Ring in the town to-day;  
That's for victory. No knell swells,  
For the many swept away:  
Hundreds, thousands! Let us weep,  
We, who need not, just to keep  
Reason clear in thought and brain  
Till the morning comes again;  
Till the third dread morning tell  
They who were that fought and fell—

By the Alma river.

Willie, lie down, my child;  
For the bed is poor and hard;  
But thy father, far exiled,

Sleeps upon the open sword,

Dreams of us two at home;

Or beneath the starry dome,  
Digs out trenches in the dark,  
Where he buries—Willie, mark!

Where his bones those who died  
Fighting, fighting at his side—

By the Alma river.

Willie, Willie, go to sleep;

God will hear us, O my boy!

He will make the dull hours creep

Faster, and send news of joy;

When I need not shrink to meet

Those great plazards in the street,

In some eyes—child, say that you

Once again—a different one—

Say—O God! Thy will be done,

By the Alma river."

D. M. M.

The Story-Teller.

MABEL'S NEW YEAR.

"Little Mabel, little Mabel,

Wanders forth upon the street,

The frost upon her yellow hair,

The snow beneath her feet."

It was a very cold, miserable garret room where Mabel Brown, a poor little bound girl, lay asleep on New Year's eve. The windows were broken in a great many places, and studded with old rags, that did not keep out the cold at all; even the snow drifted in, and lay in little heaps upon the floor, close to Mabel's straw pallet, where she lay covered up with only a piece of old carpet. You wonder how she could sleep at all in such a place—you are sure you could not. Poor little Mabel! she knew of no better things. Her parents had been poor, and had to work hard even to get something to eat; and when they died, Mabel was bound out to a huckster woman, who gave her hard work and worse treatment all the day long. She had to do everything—wait in the shop, run errands to carry things home to customers, work about the house, wash and dress the children, and wait on them, and twenty other things beside; so that the poor child was tired enough to sleep soundly when she was allowed to go to bed, even on that miserable pallet.

By and by, while she lay there asleep, a boy came clattering at the door, and flung it open; when he saw Mabel asleep, he shouted down stairs:

"Mother! mother! what do you think? Mabel ain't up yet, and it's eight o'clock, and I had to dress myself all alone, and Jane ain't gotten dressed neither. I say, mother!"

The little girl sprang up hastily, wakened by the rude noise, and hurried on her poor ragged clothes, that she might go down to dress the children before her mistress came up. But she was not in time to escape a scolding for her laziness, accompanied with a slap, and an order to "go get Bob and Jane ready for breakfast that minute." Mabel was used to such treatment, she had to bear it daily and hourly. She did not cry or say a word, but dressed the children patiently, bearing with all their rudeness and freckles, though they imitated their mother and scolded her, and struck her, because she had to wash them in cold water, and she could not comb it without hurting them, and she gave her trouble in a great many ways. God had given the little girl a gentle, patient, forgiving spirit, and so she had strength to receive all the bad that she had to endure.

After having given the children their breakfast, and swallowed hers, she went into the back room of the little shop, and sat down amongst a heap of evergreens, cedar, holly and box, that she had been tying up into wreaths for sale. A lady had been there the day before, and ordered a quantity of wreaths to decorate her parlors for New Year's day, and Mabel had been obliged to sit up very late the night before to finish them. Now she was laying them carefully into a basket, in which they were to be sent home. She knew she would have to carry them—there was no one else to do it; and no matter if it was storming—if the snow did lie deep upon the ground, and Mabel had no shoes—if the sharp, steely rain was pouring down, and Mabel had no cloak or water covering. The huckster woman had to bear it daily and hourly.

"Well, we'll go and see," Adelaide said; and they went down to the hall door again and opened it to get the basket, but the basket was gone. Some one had passed by and taken possession of it, and it was of no use to look any further for it. Poor Mabel burst into an agony of grief. She knew only too well what would be her fate if she had to go back without the basket, and without having done her errand. Adelaide tried to comfort her:

"Never mind about the basket, Mabel," she said; "I wouldn't care for the basket or the people; I wouldn't go back to live with people that treated me so! and you shan't go, Mabel; you shall stay and live with me always; I'll ask grandpa if you mayn't!"

Full of a new idea, the child ran across the passage, dragging Mabel after her up the stairs again. Running along the upper hall past the drawing-room, she mounted two steps at the extreme end of the hall, and knocked lightly at a door. A kind voice said cheerily, "Come in, Lady-bird;" and then an old man in a crimson dressing-gown and black velvet smoking cap, with long, silvery hair beneath it, came and went very much like savages.

"I had a fancy it was Lady-bird's knock," he said, stooping down to kiss the child. "What is your pleasure, Queen Adelaide? Come forward and proclaim it."

"And may Queen Adelaide have her pleasure, grandpa, whatever it may be?"

"If she exacts nothing more than usually unreasoning—well, who's this?" he exclaimed in surprise, breaking off suddenly as he saw Mabel for the first time. Poor Mabel! she had hidden behind Adelaide, trembling with a vague fear at the strangeness of her position, and half hoping to escape notice. Now she had to stand forth and bear the kind but inquisitive gaze of the old man's eye. Poor Mabel! she hung her head down in her shame and shyness, but for all that the old man could see that the face she was trying to hide was a very lovely one, with its large, sad eyes, and the delicate mouth and chin.

Even though the stain of tears was on the cheek, the chin and pale from want and suffering, and roughened by constant exposure to wind and weather.

"Where did this poor child come from, Adelaide?" he asked wonderingly.

"Why, out of the street, grandpa, where she was walking in the snow with her naked feet! Only think of it, grandpa," exclaimed Adelaide, indignantly—"the people she lived with sent her out to sell evergreens, and I saw her from the window and brought her in. And oh, grandpa, I want you to promise that she shan't go back to them any more—won't you? Mabel is too good to go back there, and I want her to stay with me always, and get dressed in some warm frocks, and be happy and comfortable. May I keep her, grandpa? say?"

"It is our own son, Mr. Hinches." "Never mind, the starch must be taken out of the starch," he said. "The starch must be taken out of the starch."

"Mrs. H.'s somewhat extensive hand clapped a stopper on the farmer's mouth, but not on his resolution.

"Why don't the boy come down?" said the father directly to the kitchen. The mother went up to see. The tender lad complained bitterly that there was no bell in the room—that he had always been accustomed to have a fire in his "apartment," but as there was no servant, he would try once to rise without. So after a deal of fuss about water and towels, and a display of starch in the snow outside, the old man consented at last to keep Mabel in the house and take care of her always. She was to be Adelaide's little maid, and help her to dress and wait on her, and Mabel thought it would be a very different thing from being the maid to Mrs. James' rude boy.

She could scarcely believe that she was not in a dream, when a few hours after she stood in the library again by Adelaide's side, before her grandfather.

She was such a different person from the poor ragged child who had stood trembling there before. Now she had bathed and was so prettily dressed from head to foot in garments richer and handsomer than she had ever dreamed of possessing. Her face was clean and pure, and her pretty yellow hair, parted evenly from her forehead, and clustered wavy around her neck; her neat dark merino dress fitted nicely to her figure, and her poor little feet had soft, warm stockings and shoes on. Altogether she looked so pretty and neat that Adelaide was perfectly charmed with her new little maid, and could not refrain from throwing her arms around her neck and kissing her; and the kind grandpa himself patted her head and told her to be a good girl.

"I'm so sorry!" said the child, pityingly; "but don't cry. I haven't got any mother either; I've only got a grandpa, but he loves me dearly, and gives me every thing I want. So if I want some nice warm clothes for you, he'll give them to me. But you must come in first and get warm; and put your basket down here—I wouldn't carry that heavy basket any more."

The child took the basket and set it down upon the step, and then drew Mabel into the house, across the hall, and up the broad, carpeted staircase, into the drawing-room where she had been before. Poor Mabel! she stood bewildered with astonishment and admiration in the centre of that beautiful room. It seemed to her a dream of fairy land; she had never imagined the existence of such splendid things. The velvet carpet, so rich and glowing, into which her bare feet sank at every step, the luxurious couches and divans, and the mirrors reaching from the floor to ceiling, the gorgeous curtains, and the pictures and statues, and the beautiful trifles scattered around upon the marble-tables—every thing was new and wonderful to Mabel. She looked down at herself, in all her tatters and misery, and then with a bitter sense of the contrast between herself and her surroundings, she would run wildly from the room, from the house, out into the snow again. What business had she there! But the little lady held her hands, and drew her up to the great, through the silver bars of which the glowing coals shed such a warm crimson light. A large cushioned chair stood before the grate, and in this child seated Mabel; then she sat down upon the ottoman by her, and commenced talking to her, and asking her questions.

"Tell me what your name is, little girl," she said; "Mabel, is it? what a pretty name Mabel! My name is Adelaide, but nobody would ever know it, because grandpa always calls me Lady-bird. I wish my grandpa was yours too, he is so good, and he would never let you go into the cold so cold. Tell me all about it, Mabel, where you live, and what makes you so poor. Maybe I can do something for you."

And so Mabel did tell her all her story, and all that she had to bear; how she was cold and hungry always, and badly-treated, and scolded and beaten at home. And the little Adelaide cried with pity and grief for the poor little bound girl, and Mabel cried too—it was so unusual a thing, this sympathy and kindness, that it affected her to tears much more readily than harsh words or ill-usage would have done. And then the two children sat all alone, for no one had been in the room all this time; and Mabel, in talking with Adelaide, had forgotten all about her errand, and her basket of evergreens that she had left upon the door-step, and that she had staid away long past the time when she should have been at home again. But all once she remembered it, and sprung up to the usual standing order. N. Augustus minded along, quizzing the villagers with his glass, totally insensible while everybody was gaping and laughing—totally insensible to everything but his own pre-eminent importance. Little Ned, the wag of the family, straddled behind him, "following in his footsteps," making stride for stride, straddle for straddle, and a swing of his coat for every swing of his brother's swallow-tail. It was glorious broad comedy, and as the procession passed, people did everything but cheer it on.

Hinchins was not a bad fellow—were there not many in the village to welcome him in real sincerity, and to remember on his return one who had really once been a favorite? Certainly there was one—the favorite schoolmate and playmate, the little girl, now a fine young woman, to whom three years previously, before his transportation to the city, he had plighted his word in all the sincerity of youth. Of course he was at once adopted at the farmer's house, as daughter and sister, and their union was counted on, as if it had already taken place. Ellen was his mother and father's joy, "in lengthened

days, in the spring-time of hope seen.

With frosty hand I strive to wind  
The scattered things around my frame—

And soon a drear, uncouth home.

To wake my love-fires dry flame.

In my bright greenwood I behold  
The once loved trees all stripped and bare,

And, shivering, I endure the cold,

Leaves, like them, in my despair.

The hills which once I loved to climb  
In buoyant toil, with Hope in view,

Have lost the spirit's summer time,

And wear a drear, uncouth home.

My soul's wild fields of ripening grain,  
That promised golden harvests all,

Are blighted with untimely rain,

And scorching droughts, and scorching fall.

The silver stream that flowed along  
In joy's bright day a flashing tide,

Is frozen! and the boatman's song

Is hushed—my ear is laid aside.

The trees where once I gathered fruit  
Creak with the pain of frosty limbs,

And sitting at the sapless root,

The driving snow my sight denies.

How fall life's storms upon my way!

How pass life's years from birth till death!

The Spring is Autumn in my day,

And Summer brings Winter's breath.

It is December! and erewhile

My sorrowing years shall all be past!

My dying hope, on Sorrow's isle,

Ah, "Shall December always last?"

The winds sweep by, nor heed my woe—

The frost makes crystals of my tears—

While all around the driving snow—

In trackless plains my grave appears.

Yet comes there, 'mid the old year's toll,

In one fair gleam of Hope's pure ray,

The answer, "No! Endure, O Soul!

December shall be turned to May!"

"A WELL ORDERED HOME."

These words are a "home-thrust" to many practical lessons of wisdom. The relations of husband and wife, parents and children, and brothers and sisters, are all embraced within their meaning. To the husband, love, kindness, honesty, and forbearance towards the chosen partner of his life, are essential. To the wife, a loving heart, a cheerful home; "bright fires instead of black stoves," smiles of welcome, devotion and obedience, mutual forbearance, mutual interest, a cultivation of mutual tastes, pursuits and studies, a love of the beautiful and true. To parents, fixed rules of government for children, founded on justice and mercy, whose fruit is love, recognising and strictly observing the rights of the child, as scrupulously as they demand obedience; to cultivate order and system in all things, and a taste for the useful and beautiful, instead of follies and frivolities—all these are equally essential.

Provide amusement for children, if you would keep them from seeking it away from home.

Make the house cheerful and happy, and desirable, if you would have it irresistible to the members of it. Discard the austerity and cold stiffness of formality, but observe all the true and genuine politeness of honest, hearty humanity, which teaches us "to do unto others, as we would that others do unto us." Such a home should every Christian family be. Then the seeds of piety, honesty, uprightness, cheerfulness, and elevated happiness, sown and nurtured in the home, would spring up and grow and multiply as the different members of these families radiated to all points of the compass like a halo of glory, and "peace on earth, and good will to man," would be the glorious result.

FATIGUE. Faith does not consist in thinking that thine sins are comparatively little, and therefore may be forgiven; but in knowing that they are very great, and believing that, though they are even so many and great, past or present, Christ's blood is above them all.

HOME. How sweet a thing is love of home. It is not acquired—it is a feeling that has its origin elsewhere. It is born with us, brought from another world to carry us on with joy in this. It attaches to the humblest heart that ever trod.

HOPE. Even though the stain of tears was on the cheek, the chin and pale from want and suffering, and roughened by constant exposure to wind and weather.

WILHELMINA. I had a fancy it was Lady-bird's knock," he said, stooping down to kiss the child. "What is your pleasure, Queen Adelaide? Come forward and proclaim it."

"And may Queen Adelaide have her pleasure, grandpa,